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U.S. EMBASSY DISCUSSES EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES VIA WEBCHAT – TRANSCRIPT

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:01) Hi everyone -- Thanks for all your questions. This webchat is an experiment for us and we're still setting up. We'll start answering your questions soon.

acdushanbe: (15:03) I want to know which programs are for my age is avialible

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:03) Hi again -- we're here to answer your questions about high school and university exchange programs. I see that some of you wrote that your in the second stage of an application, but we have more than one exchange program, so you need to be specific about the programs you're applying for so we know how to answer your question.

ACKhujand2: (15:07) I am Zarrina Sattorova! I study at school #20. I would like to know more about exchange programs for high school students.

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:07) Hello Zarrina. Thank you for your question. At this time, there are two exchange programs for high school students. One of the programs is FLEX, which is for students ages 15-17. The recruiting for that program will be done in the autumn. There is also the Ben Franklin program for students aged 16-18. The deadline for that program passed recently, but recruiting will begin again in the spring of 2011.

ACKhujand2: (15:09) Have any program for high school students except the FLEX and Benjamin Franklin?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:09) Hello ACKhujand2. Unfortunately, at this time, there are no other programs for high school students besides FLEX and Ben Franklin.

ackulob2 2: (15:11) I am really really interested in Muski program is there any alumnai of Muskie???

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:11) Hi -- I see that one of you asked about the Muskie program. That program is funded by the U.S. government and run by an organization named IREX. You can find more information about the program at <http://www.irex.org/programs/muskie/index.asp>. It's a program to get your masters degree (also called a graduate degree), and you can study any of these topics: business administration, economics, education, environmental management, international affairs, journalism and mass communication, law, library and information science, public administration, public health, and public policy. You can find more information in English, Russian and Tajik on IREX's website -- www.irex.tj. I hope that helps.

AC Khorog:(15:11) Can you tell a bit about Work and Treval?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:11) Hello AC Khorog. More information about summer work and travel can be found here: <http://exchanges.state.gov/jexchanges/programs/swt.html>

ACKhujand1: (15:15) Can we stay in USA after finishing english course?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:15) Hello **ACKhujand1:** how long you can stay depends on the type of visa you travel on.

ACKhujand3: (15:16) Do we have any other program besides MUSKI for graduater students?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:16) In addition to Muskie we have the Fulbright Student program for graduate study. This program has been around since the 1940s, and in Tajikistan since 1992. The Fulbright Visiting Student Program sends Tajikistani university graduates to the United States for master's degree. Applications to begin study in 2011 will be accepted this coming spring. For additional information, please visit <http://fulbright.state.gov>. There is a link near the top that says "How Do I Apply?" - you can check that out.

ACDushanbe 4: (15:16) How can we continue our studying abroad?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:16) Hello ACDushanbe4. US student visas (F1) are for duration of status, which means that you can remain in the US on your F1 visa for as long as you constantly remain a student, no matter how long it takes to finish.

ACKhujand1: (15:18) Do you know any information about Al Azhart university?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:18) No, I'm not familiar with this university. If it's in the U.S. you can get more information from the EdUSA Educational Advisor in Khujand. His office is at 183 Lenin St.

ACKhujand1: (15:19) Are there any exchange program partly for high school teachers of distant village?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:19) Hello ACKhujand1. There are several programs designed for teachers. The English Teaching Mentor program takes place in Dushanbe and offers several intensive training sessions per year, with one long session in the summer. There is also the Teaching Excellence Award, which sends three to four teachers to the US each year for about 6 weeks of training.

ACDushanbe 4: (15:20) When will consist FLEX?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:20) FLEX recruiting happens in the early fall

AC Khorog:(15:21) I would like to apply for LEADs programme, Can you give some information about that?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:21) The LEAD program is new. The Legal Education and Development (LEAD) Fellowship Program for Tajikistan provides master's level study of law in the United States for current resident citizens of Tajikistan. Applications are available now for degree programs beginning FallSemester 2010. Applications for degree programsbeginning Fall Semester 2011 will be available in October 2010. You can get more information, including applications from IREX's website at <http://www.irex.tj/eng/lead.php>.

acdushanbe 3: (15:23) WHAT'S HAPPEND ? WHY YOU ARE NOT TALK WITH US ???

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:23) Hi Dushanbe 3 -- when we answer questions they're for everyone online -- please don't shout at us, it's not polite. I hope you've found the answers to the questions useful so far. Thank you.

ACDushanbe 4: (15:23) WHEN WILL CONSIST THE BEN FRANKLIN PERO?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:23) The application deadline for Ben Franklin ended on 5 February and interviews with selected students will be in April. students selected for interviews will be called for interviews in late March.

AC Khorog:(15:27) Can you give some information about J1 and F1 visas?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:27) Hi -- we plan to do a different webchat about visa issues in the next month or so. Our consul will be able to give more specific visa information then. But I can tell you that most educational exchange programs require either a F1 or J1 visa. If you are going on an official U.S. Government exchange program these are the types of visas provided. They are for the length of your study in the U.S.

ACDushanbe 4: (15:28) CAN YOU TELL SOMETHING ABOUT OLIMPID?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:28) Do you mean the Winter Olympics that will begin in Vancouver, Canada in a few days? I'm sure they'll be exciting and fun to watch, but that doesn't really have anything to do with exchange programs ;).

AcKulob2: (15:29) FLEX program chooses applicants from different parts of Tajikistan and why UGRAD and MUSKI choose only from Khujand and Dushanbe? That would be honest if they choose from all parts of it?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:29) All of our exchange programs are open to students from all over Tajikistan, and the strongest applicants are chosen regardless of where they live in Tajikistan.

ACKhujand1: (15:30) Can we make exchange program between two faculties for instance US and Tajikistan.

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:30) This is a good question. Some Tajik universities have developed private partnerships with universities in the U.S. and other countries. Those partnerships often result in exchanges between faculty members in both directions. We are trying to assist universities who want to create these kinds of partnerships -- there are already several in Tajikistan.

AC Khorog:(15:32) hello my name is Khushruz. I would like to ask if there any programmes for those who finished school and are not studying yet? Thank you

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:32) Hi Khushruz -- No, we don't have the kind of program you're asking about. We have the FLEX program for high school students, and the UGrad program for university students, but nothing for those who are in between. The UGrad program is for one year of university study in the U.S., usually taken during the 3rd year of university study. That year counts toward your university degree here.

ackulob1: (15:33) what is the goal of Exchange Programm?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:33) The goal of an exchange program is to bring people from different cultural backgrounds together to share experiences and learn from one another. Exchange programs offer a unique chance at a hands-on experience with a new culture, new language, new friends, and new ideas.

acdushanbe 3: (15:35) Hey Mr.Will you come to Tajikistan And to spend to Conference !

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:35) We are in Tajikistan right now, chatting with you from the U.S. Embassy. Which conference are you referring to?

ACKulob4: (15:35) 5) If could answer my question that would be great "When the answer of UGRAD will come?"

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:35) Hi -- we don't know when the final decisions for the UGrad program will be made. The program is funded by the U.S. government and administered in Tajikistan by IREX. Please feel free to email IREX about the timeline at ugrad@irex.tj.

ACKulob4: (15:36) Who eligible to apply to go on exchange?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:36) Eligibility depends on which exchange program you wish to apply for.

ACKhujand2: (15:37) I am Shahnoza from khujand.From where I can get application to LEAD program?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:37) lead@irex.tj

ACKhujand1: (15:38) i have been in US by F1 almost for two years when i went to get a new vise they refused me. Do i have any chance to go by exchange programs?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:38) There will be a webchat about visas soon.

ACKulob2: (15:38) I am really interested in Muskie program and I have some questions about that. Do Moskie applicants need to take TOEFL and GRE if they of field of their study in the US will be Education system?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:38) Hi -- Yes, all international students who would like to study in the U.S. at the university level need to take the TOEFL test. And all students, even Americans, who want to go to graduate school need to take the GRE. So, yes, you will need to take those tests prior to applying to graduate programs.

ACDushanbe 4: (15:39) WHY AMERICAN STUDENTS COME TO TAJIKISTAN TO STUDY WHEN THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IS MUCH BETTER IN US?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:39) Students from the U.S. come to Tajikistan to learn about the language and culture, to have new experiences and meet new people.

acdushanbe 3: (15:41) I want to ask you a questions about American people.is they are before geting diploma do something or invent anything?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:41) It depends on the education level the student is trying to complete, but even at the high school level, a student often must complete a large project or long paper before graduation.

ACKhujand2: (15:41) Hello,I am Yulduz.How many programs do you have for 1-3 course students?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:41) Hi Yulduz -- the main program for university students is the UGrad program. The application time for this year has ended, but you can get more information at <http://www.irex.tj/eng/ugrad.php>.

ackulob1: (15:43) In what states will the exchnage students study?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:43) There are international students at almost every university in all 50 states.

ACKulob4: (15:44) Who will the students stay with while on exchange?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:44) It depends on the type of exchange. FLEX students live with a host family, but university-level students stay in dorms or in apartments.

AC Khorog:(15:46) Hello!Here is one student her name is Nigina.She studies in geology faculty on 4th course.She would like to know that can she transfer to US university and continue her education there?And also she wants to know about the price of education there?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:46) The price of each university is different. Public universities are usually cheaper than private universities, and different universities offer different amounts of financial assistance. In order to find out if she can transfer, she has to apply to the schools she is interested in to see if they accept her. Transferring in the fourth year is not common, but also not impossible.

acdushanbe 2: (15:46) canwe talk to you alive?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:46) We are both live and alive.

ACDushanbe 4: (15:47) MY NAME IS PARVIZ AND MY QUESTION IS THAT WHY HERE IN TAJIKISTAN THARE ARE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDYING IN ABROAD IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITIES AND BUSSINES BUT LESS FOR NATURAL SCIENCES?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:47) That's a good question Parviz. We tend to focus our exchange programs on the subjects that the majority of Tajiks are interested in. I myself have a biology degree and would love to see more Tajik students study natural sciences. The UGrad program definitely includes a variety of sciences, the Muskie program includes Environmental Management, and the Fulbright program has a special award for those who want to study science and technology. I hope that helps.

Acdushanbe 3: (15:47) Could you come to American corner and give some presentations for students?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:47) The US Embassy regularly plans presentations at the American Corners. We would be happy to plan more presentations about education in the US.

AC Khorog:(15:48) Hello!Anisa had an situation in the past, she passed the Flex examination and failed on second level.She would like to know that can she try again to pass Flex examination this year.The problem is that she is already 18 years old.Thank you in advance.

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:48) Unfortunately, if she is already 18, she is not within the age limit for FLEX.

ackulob1: (15:49) How many students will accept in FLEX from Tajikistan every year?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:49) Forty

ACKulob4: (15:50) How many students will accept in UGRAD from Tajikistan every year?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:50) Around ten

ACKhujand1: (15:50) But how many students are accepted to UGRAD?

ACKulob3: (15:51) How many students will accept in UGRAD from Tajikistan every year?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:51) Around ten students are accepted each year to travel on the UGRAD program.

AC Khorog:(15:52) here are some students that want to know about Flex programme?Could you give an answer please.Thank you in advance

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:52) We gave a lot of information about the FLEX program at the beginning of the webchat -- scroll back and read that part please. If you'd like more information you can read more at <http://www.americancouncils.org/program/1j/FLEX/>

ACKhujand2: (15:52) Is there any exchange program except UGRAD for 1 course students?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:52) Unfortunately there is not.

acdushanbe 2: (15:53) What means UGRAD program

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:53) UGRAD is a program for undergraduate students (students in the first four years of university).

Acdushanbe 3: (15:53) we are all thankful the representatives of US Embassy to give us many useful information! Thank you very much

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:53) You are most welcome. Thank you for the questions!

ACKulob3: (15:54) can you say about result UGARD and why you didn't answer our question

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:54) Actually, we did answer this question -- I think maybe you weren't paying attention ;) -- please scroll back and you'll see that we don't know when the UGrad results will be in, and that we suggest you ask IREX directly at ugrad@irex.tj

ACKulob3: (15:55) in which day or time they result of UGRAD

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:55) I don't know when the results of UGRAD will be announced. The program is administered by IREX, and here is the contact for the UGRAD program: ugrad@irex.tj

ACKulob4: (15:56) Can the students work part-time when on exchange?

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:56) This situation varies depending on the type of visa and the type of exchange. There will be a session all about visas very soon, and this would be a great question to ask at that webchat.

AC Khorog:(15:57) Hello! Shogun asks, Do you have any application about medicine theme?He wants to study medicine in the US.Could you please send any website about his question.Thank you in advance

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:57) Hi Shogun -- that's a good question. Because of the way that U.S. medical schools operate, we don't have a way to provide exchange scholarships. Many American medical schools provide direct scholarships to foreign students who apply -- you should check out the specific universities that you're interested in and see if they have scholarships. Also, if you are already a working doctor we have the Humphrey program, which provides one year of advanced study on Public Health and a hospital internship. To find out more information on direct scholarship opportunities, please email our educational advisor at educationusa@americancouncils-tj.or

ACKhujand1: (15:58) I waiting for your repling are there any exchange websites for the fourth year students!

EmbassyDushanbe2: (15:58) If you are a fourth-year student and you are planning to continue your education, there are many programs for Masters-level students, such as Fulbright and Muskie.

ACKhujand1: (15:58) Are there any exchange programs to military service of Tajikistan?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:58) Hi -- sometimes the U.S. military academies take foreign students, but there are very few spots. As far as I know there are not any programs right now for Tajik students to study at the U.S. military academies.

Acdushanbe: (15:59) MY NAME IS PARVIZ AND MY QUESTION IS THAT WHY HERE IN TAJIKISTAN THERE ARE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDYING IN ABROAD IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITIES AND BUSINESS BUT LESS FOR NATURAL SCIENCES?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (15:59) Hi Parviz -- I answered your question earlier. Please scroll back and see the answer.

AC Khorog:(16:01) i would like to know about BULGARIN UNIVERSITY, OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE ALSO SUPPORTS STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL AID, BUT IT'S NOT FULL, WHAT ABOUT US EMBASSY? IS IT FULL SCHOLARSHIP OR NOT?

EmbassyDushanbe1: (16:01) The Open Society exchange programs are not funded by the U.S. government, nor overseen by the U.S. embassy. You'll need to contact OSI about their program

ACKulob4: (16:03) Thank you everybody!!

EmbassyDushanbe2: (16:03) Thanks very much to everyone who participated in the webchat today. We appreciate your great questions and we really hope that you found the information useful. More information about US exchange programs can be found here: <http://dushanbe.usembassy.gov/study.html>

ACKulob2: (16:04) I am planning to apply for MUSKI and I want to study Education System in the US and why do I need to take GRE? I am not going to study math.

EmbassyDushanbe1: (16:04) Our hour is up and we hope that you found this information useful. We provided information about FLEX, UGrad, Muskie, Humphrey, Fulbright, LEAD and a variety of other issues. We put all our program announcements on our Facebook page -- we hope you'll become a fan of U.S. Embassy Dushanbe on Facebook. Bye and thanks :)